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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:AMBASSADOR EILTS
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S/S: FVORTIZ
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O 232336Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J.)

SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ

REFERENCE: JIDDA 7100

FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS

1. CODEL SOLARZ'QUOTATION OF MY VIEWS IS DISTORTED AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT. I INDEED TOLD HIM SADAT REGIME IS FAR DOWN THE ROAD ON PEACE POLICY AND, SEPARATELY THAT THERE WOULD BE QUOTE RUMBLES UNQUOTE WITHIN EGYPT IF USG DECLINES TO SELL ARMS. I TOLD HIM FURTHER THAT SUCH RE-FUSAL WOULD CAUSE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES FOR SADAT WITH
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THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY, UPON WHOSE CONTINUED SUPPORT HE

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MUST DEPEND TO PURSUE THE PRO U.S. POLICY UPON WHICH HE HAS EMBARKED. SADAT'S ARMS PURCHASES FROM FRANCE AND ENGLAND HELP SOME, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT EGYPTIAN ARMY BADLY WANTS U.S. DEFENSIVE WEAPONS ANDTHAT SADAT HAS HELD OUT PROMISE OF THIS FOR A LONG TIME. SADAT HIM-SELF TOLD SOLARZ ABOUT HIS SPECIFIC ARMS DESIRES.

2. SO FAR AS EGYPTIAN MILITARY REACTION TO SINAI II IS CONCERNED, I TOLD SOLARZ THAT GAMASY CONTENDS EGYPTIAN MILITARY ABOVE RANK OF MAJOR APPROVES SINAI II AND THOSE

BELOW THAT RANK DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD. BUT, I ALSO CAUTIONED THAT WE HAVE NO REAL CAPABILITY TO MONITOR CLOSELY EGYPTIAN MILITARY REACTION TO SINAI II AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND THAT WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT GAMASY'S ESTIMATE IS CORRECT. GAMASY IS, OF COURSE, AMONG THOSE WHO HOPE THAT, WITH CONCLUSION OF SINAI II, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR USG TO SELL ARMS. I ALSO TOLD SOLARZ THAT, IF EGYPTIAN ARMY BELIEVES ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY IS BEING SERIOUSLY DEGRADED BECAUSE OF INABILITY OBTAIN SPARE PARTS AND WHAT IT BELIEVES IS GENUINELY NEEDED, IT IS BOUND TO BECOME RESTIVE.

3. FOR JIDDA: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SOLARZ MADE COMMENTS REPORTED PARA 2 REFTEL TO PRINCE SAUD. IF HE DID, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. I AM CONCERNED THAT SAUD NOT CONVEY TO THE EGYPTIANS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO ME AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT, SINCE THIS COULD CREATE PROBLEMS IN MY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPTIANS. INGERSOLL

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